
The Evolution of Brazil Compared with That of Spanish and Anglo-Saxon America by Manoel De Oliveira Lima

Source: *The Journal of Race Development*, Vol. 6, No. 1 (Jul., 1915), pp. 111-112

Published by:

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29738116>

Accessed: 01-08-2014 01:05 UTC

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South and Central American Trade Conditions of Today, including Mexico, Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic. By A. HYATT VERRILL. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company. 1914. Pp. xiv, 255.

The European War has intensified an interest which had already manifested itself on the part of American business men in Latin-American trade. We have heard a good deal in recent years and months of the conditions under which alone the United States can hope to capture and hold its due share of that trade. Mr. Verrill merely reiterates what the men who know Latin-American conditions have been saying but which American merchants and exporters seem to find it so hard to put into practice.

The first part of the book is entitled, "Wherein we fail," and brings up such familiar reasons as the lack of a merchant marine, ignorance of conditions and lack of adaptability in meeting them, ignorance of Spanish and unwillingness to observe the customs of the country, careless packing and shipment of merchandise; demand for short-time credit in countries run of necessity on a long-time credit basis, and the failure of many American consuls to measure up to the responsibilities of their position. The second part, "How we may succeed," contains suggestions for remedying these defects in our international trade, while the third part gives statistics of the Latin-American republics and their trade, such as exports and imports, currency, weights, measures, steamships and railways, etc.

The Evolution of Brazil compared with that of Spanish and Anglo-Saxon America. By MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA. Stanford University Press. 1914. Pp. 159.

A most interesting and suggestive book for students of Latin-American history and conditions has been formed from the six lectures delivered by Dr. Oliveira Lima at Leland Stanford Junior University in the autumn of 1912. A distinguished historian and diplomat, Dr. Lima has already done much to interpret Brazil to the world and any contribution from him in that field must prove valuable. In the present volume, the subject dealt with is so broad that it would be impossible to treat it in all of its phases but certain aspects of the social, political and intellectual development of Brazil have been presented and compared with similar lines of development in Spanish and Anglo-Saxon America.

To mention just two of the subjects, in considering the question of slavery, Dr. Lima compares the conditions under which emancipation was accomplished in the three sections of America. In Spanish America "the circumstances under which independence was effected, permitted or rather determined the abolition of slavery in many of the former colonies," for the slave-owners largely remained loyal to the mother country and their defeat made it natural that their slaves should be set free. In Brazil on the other hand, slavery was more important economically, which tended to preserve it, and there was no political reason for its abolition since "the land-holding class in the main identified itself with the new régime and was consequently left in undisturbed possession of its slaves." Slavery was therefore retained until almost the end of the nineteenth century when "the moral and political evolution of the country demanded its abolition by legislative enactment." That the problem did not reach the same peaceful solution in the United States was due to the resistance of the partisans of slavery with the result that emancipation, when it did come, was not only an act of humanity but an act of retaliation as well.

In discussing the differences in government between Spanish and Portuguese America, Dr. Lima attributes the peaceful and orderly development of Brazil to its monarchical form of government with its maintenance on the throne of the traditional dynasty whose representatives however identified themselves with the new destinies of the country. To him this form of government was the most suitable one for Latin America in the nineteenth century, a judgment sustained by a comparison of Brazilian history with that of any of the Spanish American nations, whose anarchy and disorder was due in part at least to the attempt on the part of a society not as yet fitted for democracy to attain an ideal of democratic solidarity. We in the United States have been so long accustomed to think of the republican form of government as the only form adapted to the western hemisphere, that we are apt to fail to remember that there has been no such repugnance to monarchical institutions in Latin America as here. Both San Martin and Bolivar had, as their ideal, a monarchy with a European ruling house; and that republican forms of government were established, was due in part of course to the nearness and influence of the United States but also in part to the difficulty of securing a suitable dynasty.